

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action, and the following remarks are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

Claims 9–20 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsujikawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,435). Applicants respectfully disagree for at least the following reasons. Tsujikawa does not disclose a printing inspection data generating apparatus having a grouping means for classifying the element shape and position data into data groups grouped according to a grouping condition to identify individual data groups as recited in claim 9, from which claims 10–14 depend. In addition, Tsujikawa does not disclose a printing inspection data generating method wherein element shape and position data, indicating shapes and positions of element solder print portions formed on respective electrodes provided on a circuit forming surface of said substrate to be used to bond electronic components, is classified into data groups grouped according to a grouping condition to identify individual data groups, according to independent claim 15 and claims 16–20 which depend therefrom. Thus, Tsujikawa does not anticipate the subject claims.

Claims 1–8 are rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsujikawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,435) in view of official notice (MPEP 2144.43). Applicants respectfully disagree. Tsujikawa fails to disclose or suggest a printing inspection apparatus wherein the inspection data is generated by classifying element shape and position data, indicating shapes and positions of element solder print portions formed through printing on electrodes provided on a circuit forming surface of said substrate to be used to bond electronic components, into data groups

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grouped according to a grouping condition as recited in claim 1. The Examiner appears to take official notice with respect to a displaying means of claim 1, which does not cure the aforementioned deficiency of Tsujikawa. Hence, Tsujikawa in view of the official notice would not have made claims 1-8 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 35948.

Respectfully submitted,
PEARNE & GORDON, LLP

By: Deborah L. Corpus
Deborah L. Corpus – Reg. No. 47,753

1801 East 9th Street
Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108
(216) 579-1700

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